

ENG 129-01: Intro to African-American Literature

Professor Anne Herbert

This introductory course traces themes of African-American literary discourse through an exploration of the strong “autobiographical impulse” that characterizes this literature. Focusing on black rhetorical traditions, both oral and written, we will read slave narratives, sermons, folklore, poetry, and polemical essays, short fiction, and drama to explore the ways African-American writers use black cultural forms and patterns of expression in various genre to express visions of self, social justice, and survival.

This course is designed to emphasize critical reading of literary texts, writing critical responses to those texts, both in short reading response mini-essays and in one longer literary analysis paper, and listening and participating in critical dialogue (in class as well as on-line) with other members of the class. Coursework also includes a Group Poetry Performance project.